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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6509

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3062

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1412

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM PRIORITY

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2137

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 000744

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS, IO/UNP, DRL; GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV AORC PREL PHUM CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA ON HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL VOTE

REF: STATE 60967

**¶1.** (SBU) Cambodia is in the midst of making determinations regarding its support for candidates from all geographic blocs for the new Human Rights Council, according to Sun Suon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of International Organizations. Pol/Econ Chief made demarche points in reftel, which Sun Suon took on board. Sun Suon (please protect) noted that the African and Latin American blocs mostly lobby through their Ambassadors based in New York. However, some of the larger Latin American countries (he named Brazil, Argentina, Cuba and Venezuela) are lobbying the Cambodian embassies in East Asia -- particularly in Bangkok and Beijing. The Europeans are being particularly aggressive in all venues -- in New York, European capitals, and in Cambodia. If a country lacks an embassy in Phnom Penh, they are inundating his office with faxes. Among the Asian candidates, Cambodia is committed to Japan's membership; the others are still being reviewed. He is having daily meetings with Asian embassy representatives lobbying for their respective countries. He is thankful that Cambodia was smart enough to know that it would not be a competitive candidate for the HRC, particularly after the country's human rights performance in 2005.

**¶2.** (SBU) Sun Suon plans to attend the upcoming NAM Ministerial in Kuala Lumpur at the end of April, and will represent the Cambodian delegation at the senior official's meeting. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong is not expected to go, with Secretary of State Ouch Borith going in his place. Sun Suon said the meeting will likely be the normal NAM talkshop, and he would like to see the organization focus more on economic and development issues and less on political issues.

STORELLA